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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,495	10/09/2001	Kazuishi Mitani	01634/LH	6563

1933 7590 03/04/2003

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EXAMINER

DERRINGTON, JAMES H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1731

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/973,495	MITANI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	James Derrington	1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,6 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3-5 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>3</u>	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-10, drawn to a process, classified in class 65, subclass 30.1.
- II. Claims 11-30, drawn to product, classified in class 428, subclass 195.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions Group I and Group II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be made by a materially different process such as polishing a glass with sponge formed from cellulose and cerium oxide particles.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Mr. Leonard Holtz on Feb. 12, 2003 a provisional election was made with oral traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-10. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 11-30 stand withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim

remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marukawa et al (6,287,175) taken with Hall (6,509,412).

Marukawa et al disclose the process of manufacturing glass substrates for magnetic disks comprising polishing at least one surface of the substrate and subjecting the polished surface to scrubbing with a sponge (See Fig. 1 (a) and Col. 4, line 23 through Col. 5, line 14). Marukawa et al disclose that the sponge has an underlayer or backing (Col. 2, lines 52-55). The sponge is described as having a Shore hardness of 32 degrees (See Col. 4, lines 66-67). The Hall reference is cited as disclosing that Asker hardness values convert to approximately twice the numerical value on the Shore hardness Scale (See Col. 8, lines 54-55 where Shore of 24 is the same as Asker of 52). Therefore the sponge of Marukawa having a Shore hardness of about 20-50 (Col. 3, line 45), e.g. 32 (Col. 4, line 67) meets the instant Asker value of not less than 40. It would appear that because the reference also uses a potassium hydroxide solution for the treatment that the ph value of claim 6 would be inherent in the process of Marukawa et al (Compare Col. 4, lines 50-52 with the top of page 14 of the instant specification). With regard to claim 8, Marukawa et al disclose an initial mechanical polishing step

(Col. 4, line 25 ff) and this step qualifies as a texturing according to the instant specification in the paragraph bridging pages 9-10. Additionally the instant specification indicates that mechanical polishing methods are "known" (See page 9, lines 28-29).

Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marukawa et al (6,287,175) taken with Hall (6,509,412) as applied to claims 1-2, 6 and 8 above, and further in view of the Machine Translation of JP 2000-149249.

JP 2000-149249 discloses a related process of preparing glass substrates for use as magnetic disks where the substrates are subjected to a chemical strengthening step (See par [003]). It would have been obvious to use this step with Marukawa et al in order to strengthen the glass substrates of the primary reference.

Claims 3-5 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The cited references do not show or reasonably suggest the features of these claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Derrington whose telephone number is 703 308-3832. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5pm.

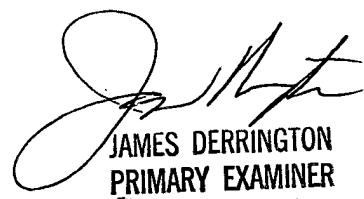
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703 308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305-7718 for regular communications and 703 872-9311 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0661.

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March 3, 2003



JAMES DERRINGTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1731